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NEW POLICY ON
FEDERAL EMPLOYEE PARKING FACILITIES

1. In response to the energy crisis, the President recently announced a policy to charge employees for parking available at U.S. Government facilities. To date, while no formal program has been established, the Agency has received a draft OMB circular on employee parking for review and comments. These comments are due by 30 April 1979.

2. Parking fees are not intended as a revenue device but rather as a means to further a national policy towards energy conservation. This policy is expected to result in greater use of public transportation and car pools, a cleaner environment, cost savings to the taxpayer, and reduced traffic congestion. With the goal of this policy, it is inconsistent for the U.S. Government to subsidize employee parking.

3. Major points raised in the circular are as follows:

a. Parking fees will be established at all Federal installations based on the fair monthly rental value of the parking space.

b. Authority to establish charges for parking spaces is contained in the Federal Property and Administration Act, as amended, 40 USC 490.

LOGISTICS

HN ☐

c. The Administrator of GSA shall determine the rate to be charged for Government-furnished employee parking at each facility. GSA will determine rates by 1 September 1979. Charges will go into effect as of 1 October 1979. For the initial period, 1 October 1979 to 30 September 1981, charges to be collected will be 50 percent of the full rate. Full charges will be collected after 1 October 1981.

d. The parking rate will not be less than the fair rental value used in calculating the Standard Level User Charge (i.e., the rent GSA now charges the Agency for parking areas at Headquarters and other Agency-occupied leased space) and any direct costs associated with management of parking facilities.

e. In cases where rental value is less than \$10 per month, the fee may be waived by the Head of the Agency.

f. Where no charge is levied, an Agency is required to develop and implement affirmative plans for maximizing car pooling and van pooling among employees.

4. While it is difficult at this time to project parking fees to be charged by GSA, such charges will vary significantly

LOGISTICS

HN ☐

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from one location to another for this Agency. Employees are assured that the Agency will make every effort to have OMB and GSA take into consideration the peculiar circumstances associated with our dispersed locations, lack of adequate public transportation facilities, personnel working irregular hours or rotating shift work, and other problems associated with handicapped employees.

5. Copies of the OMB circular have been provided to each Directorate to ensure consideration of all views in our comments to OMB.

Don I. Wortman
Deputy Director
for
Administration

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